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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 20, 1978

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OLC #78-1876

Reg

Adm. Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Adm. Turner:

Many of us in Congress share a deepening concern with our constituents about the unparalleled and ominous Soviet military build-up, the balance of forces, and the state of U.S. and Allied security.

Soviet strategic forces threaten our deterrent forces with new systems including four new ICBM's, new ballistic attack submarines, intense ABM research and development, and operational killer satellites.

With reference to conventional forces, Soviet army, air and naval forces have shown massive growth in advanced tanks, artillery, fighter aircraft, bombers, ships and munitions and are demonstrating their aggressive drive not only against NATO, but also, with the help of its Cuban legion, in new areas of the Third World.

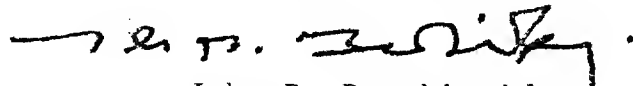
In the United States, however, recent decisions and budgetary proposals including unilateral cancellation of the B-1 bomber, slow-up of the M-X missile and neutron bomb, substantial cut-backs in the naval shipbuilding program and U.S. troop strength in South Korea, and reported SALT II concessions on the U.S. cruise missile, have all added to a deepening concern about the adequacy of U.S. defenses.

In the context of these alarming trends, I am taking the liberty of sending you a brochure announcing the June 1 publication of "American and Soviet Military Trends Since the Cuban Missile Crisis" by John J. Collins, Senior Specialist in National Defense at the Library of Congress.

This study, which I commissioned June 21, 1977, is the "most comprehensive, authoritative assessment of the U.S.-Soviet military balance ever made available to the American Public," according to the Preface appended by Dr. Ray Cline, Executive Director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

I urge you to review the enclosed materials carefully.

Sincerely yours,


John B. Breckinridge

Enclosures